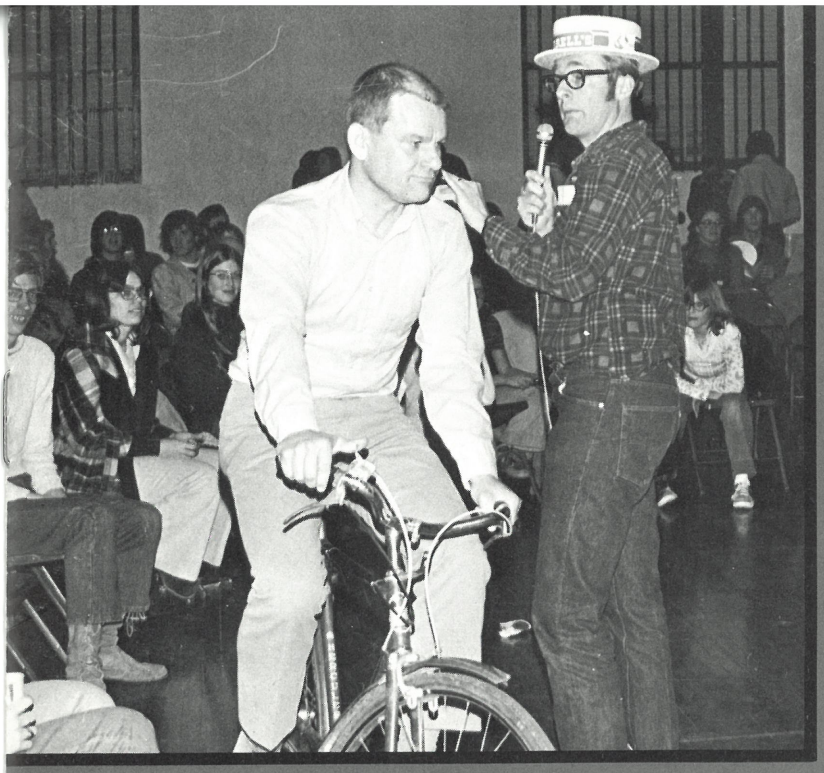
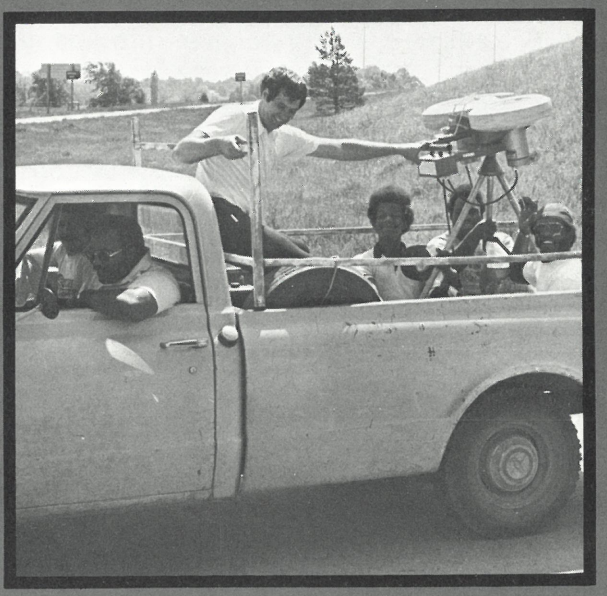
Spring Activities



Marion Deckert models his flashy Hercules bicycle in one last ride as auctioneer Jim Juhnke urges the audience to bid higher. The bicycle, purchased by Wilbert Reimer, contributed $20 to the $450 total earned during the Faculty Follies to help send the Bethel-Tabor Choir to Washington, D.C.



To settle a vexing problem, Bob Fairbank mounted a baseball pitching machine on a pick-up truck and took his kinesiology class to the bypass north of campus. He drove by at 50 m.p.h. and let the baseball fly in the opposite direction at the same speed. Result: the ball hovered in the air, then fell straight down. The on-board party includes Tom Woolsey and George Rogers in the cab, and Fairbank, Cliff Darby, Robyn Byars, and Junius Houston.

These athletes parlayed a variety of skills to bring Bethel the trophy emblematic of the first annual ACCK Tournaments Championship. In Front are Kurt Goering, Bethel SAB Chairman, Pool players Bob Harder and Melvin McKinney, and College and Trivia Bowlers David Shelly, Jim Harder, Amy Rinner, and Dan Flickinger. Standing on the stage are arm wrestlers Luther Mosley, Velma Springer, and Rhonda Wedel (Wendell Woolum not present), pool players Faith Allen and Chris Graber, fuszballers Stan Schmidt, Cynthia Habegger, Ken Krehbiel, and J. Esau, ping pongers Norma Peters, Linda Shelly, and Paul Lohrentz (Bob Harder already elsewhere in picture), and chess players Mark Rempel, Chris Jantz, and Dave Wiebe.

Steve Miller, Fred Becker, Kathy Friesen, accompanist; John Harder, Jerry Weaver, campus minister; and Greg Fast prepare to board the van. The men's quartet sang and Jerry Weaver presented short messages during a two-week spring tour of the West Coast.

Tennis

Racketmen String Surprises

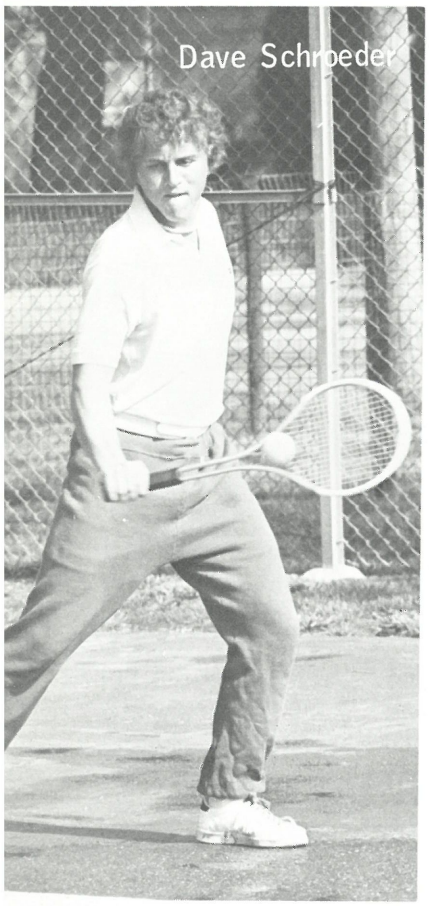
The Thresher netmen somehow muddled their way through a crazy, mixed-up season to a winning record in dual matches.

A total of 10 men popped into and out of the wildly fluctuating six-player lineup in a spring marked by defections and injuries. It got to the point that Sponsor Jim Corns held lotteries to decide seeding as all pretense of order was abandoned.

The victorious campaign was assured with a series of tense 5-4 wins in midseason. Bethel wound up tied for fifth in the league, joining three other clubs in going scoreless in the post-season tournament.

Men who participated at one time or another include seniors Kurt Goering, Gary Goertz, and David Koehn, juniors Mark Christensen, Steve Ediger, Bob Harder, Terry Lancaster, Kenley Schmidt, and Stan Schmidt, and freshman Dave Schroeder.

Kurt Goering and Stan Schmidt



Dave Schroeder

Kurt Goering

Southwestern	0-9
Wesleyan	9-0
Friends	7-2
Tabor	0-9
Newman	5-4
ACCK	tie for last
Sterling	5-4
Wesleyan	5-4
Bethany	0-9
McPherson	0-9
KCAC	tie for last

Bob Harder, Gary Goertz, Kurt Goering, Dave Schroeder--a fragment of the fluctuating tennis team.

Track

Threshers To Nationals

Outstanding individual performances offset by lack of team depth were the characteristics of the 1976 Thresher track season. Ten women and twenty men led Bethel to second and third place finishes respectively in the KCAC.

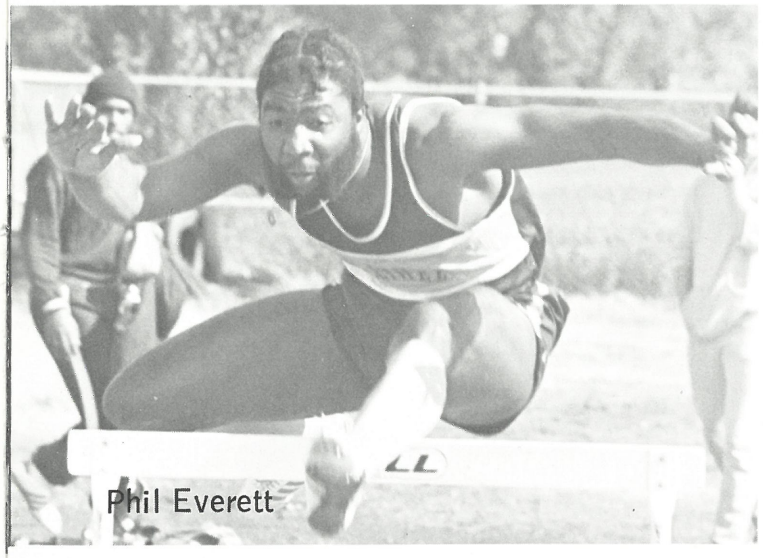
In the conference's first official track competition for women, the Threshers narrowly missed upsetting heavily favored McPherson for first place. They were led by Cynthia Alexander, sophomore from Newton, and Cynthia Habegger, junior from Hesston. Both had outstanding seasons, and represented Bethel in the national women's track meet, held in Manhattan, Kansas.

For the third consecutive year, the men's squad was paced by All-American John Muthama, junior from Kenya. John not only won races, but set new meet records in nearly every outing. His most impressive performances included a four-record sweep at the KCAC meet, and a record-setting win in the 5000 meter run at the NAIA national meet in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. John also finished second in the 1500 meters at the nationals, singlehandly ranking Bethel in the nation's top ten in small college men's track.

George Rogers presided over both squads in his fifth year of coaching at Bethel. Shirley Unruh assisted in women's track, and Quentin Reimer in men's.

John Muthama, Bethel's National Champion--5000 meters; KCAC Champ--3 mile, mile, half mile, and steeplechase.

Women's Track Team--Top Row: Cynthia Habegger, Barb Unruh, Rhonda Wedel. Fourth Row: Assistant Coach Shirley Unruh, Karla Hansen, Cynthia Alexander, Manager Marcia Kroecker. Third Row: Velma Springer, Diane Wedel. Second Row: Chris Jantz, Linnette Carlson. Bottom Row: Vicki Tieszen, Michelle Justice. Not Present: Elmira Mitchell.



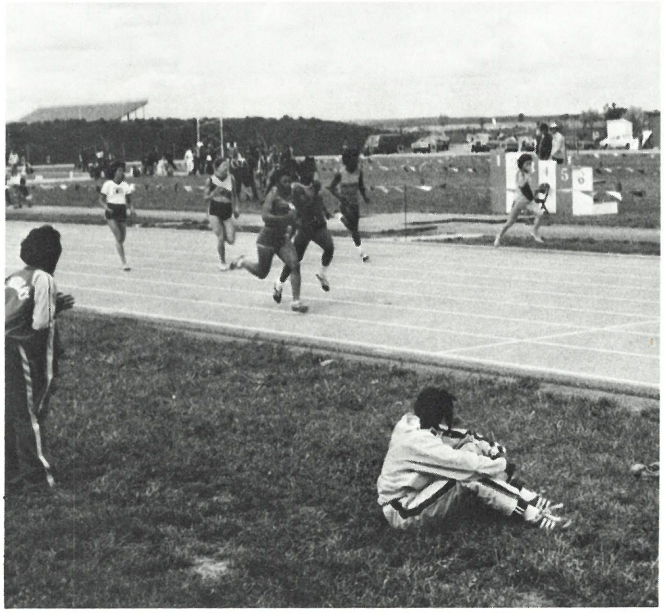
Phil Everett

Track

Men's Track--Front Row: Greg Flickner, Mike Tieszen, Jerry Clark, Ricky Bryant, Phil Everett, Dale Russell, Dwight Flaming, John Muthama. Back Row: Coach George Rogers, Jerrel Howard, Chuck Buller, Steve Miller, Stan Buller, Wynn Goering, Don Epp, Assistant Coach Quentin Reimer. Not Present: Alexander Brown, Bruce Dooley, Jerome Doyle, J. C. Evans, Mark Gambill, Steve Goertzen, Bob Stalvey, Jay Williams.

Diane Wedel, KCAC Champ--long jump

Jerry Clark, KCAC Champ--long jump



Cynthia Habegger, (Right) running at nationals, third in heat at national women's meet--100 meters, KCAC Champ --100 meters and 200 meters.

Billy Jones

Dwight Flaming

Cynthia Alexander, KCAC Champ--1500 meters and 800 meters.

Wynn Goering

Die Fledermaus

Nearly three months of combined labor by the drama and music departments climaxed on April 29 and 30 and May 1 when the Bethel College Opera Workshop presented the comic opera "Die Fledermaus" (The Bat) by Johann Strauss. The production was under the direction of Arlo Kasper (drama) and Paul Wiens (music).

"Die Fledermaus" tells the story of one Viennese nobleman, Gabriel von Eisenstein, and the escapades he and his household encounter when he is sentenced to jail. The plot is complicated by the reappearance of Mrs. Eisenstein's former suitor, a precocious maid, an intoxicated jailkeeper, and a mischievous ballmaster who all find themselves caught up in a web of mistaken identies.

Paul Crabb tries to woo his former lover, Bonita Schrag, with his "high A's" as soon as her husband is gone.

While Paul Crabb waits eagerly, Bonita Schrag and Cathy Crispino join in a sad farwell to jailbound J. Friesen.

CAST

Eisenstein	J. Friesen
Rosalinda	Bonita Schrag
Adele	Cathy Crispino
Falke	Wynn Goering
Alfred	Paul Crabb
Dr. Blind	John Haury
Prince Orlofsky	Cheryl Flaming
Franke	Steve Miller
Ida	Donna Kope
Frosch	John Juhnke

Prince Orlofsky's elaborate ball in Act II is the scene of much gaity.

Using his antique watch as bait, J. Friesen flirts with maid Cathy Crispino.

Graduation

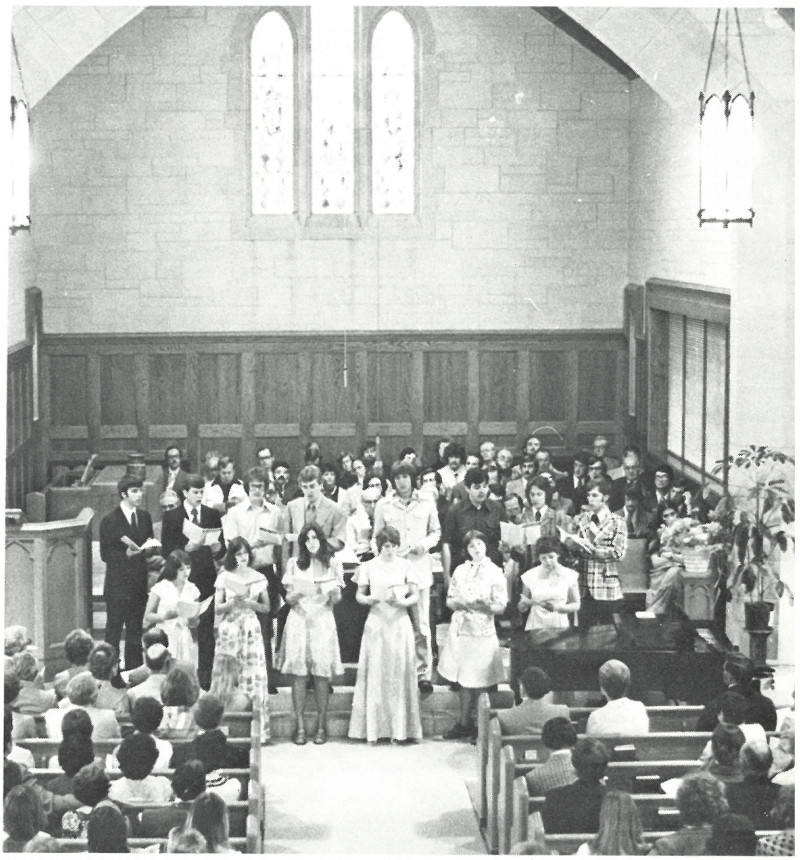
"Many Gifts, One Spirit," by senior Patty Shelly, provided an inspirational theme for the 1976 Baccalaureate held on May 23. It was a service full of variety, accented by the direct participation of seventeen graduating seniors.

The entire assembly of seniors, parents, faculty and staff, and friends joined together in a responsive reading led by Duane Friesen and Rhonda Murphy highlighting the varieties of gifts. Jake Friesen, alumnus/parent; Dwight Platt, faculty member; and Jon Rich; senior, delivered keynote addresses reflecting their college experiences.

The 120 graduates were favored with good weather for Bethel's 83rd Annual Commencement excercises. Rev. Lawrence Hart, a traditional chief of the Southern Cheyenne, Mennonite minister, and Bethel Board member, delivered a personal address, "A Foundation for Tomorrow," in which he revealed the ways in which Bethel had helped mold his life.

As Vernelle Waltner, registrar, read the graduates' names, Dean Marion Deckert solemnly presented diplomas in a ceremony marked by a clanging cow bell, a hand-walking graduate, and outbursts of applause. The nine seniors elected to the Honor Society on the basis of their grade-point average, faculty recommendations, and creative contributions to the college, were John Harry, Karen Reimer, Raymond Reimer, Jon Rich, David Shelly, Patricia Shelly, Tim Schrag, Carol Toevs, and Suzanne Wedel.

Baccalaureate reception



An ensemble of seniors provides worship music at Baccalaureate--Front Row: Kathy Voran, Bonita Schrag, Carol Toevs, Cheryl Flaming, Susan Claassen, Teresa Penner. Back Row: John Haury, Fred Becker, Paul Crabb, J. Friesen, Wynn Goering, Troy Siegfreid, Murray Ries, Joel Koehn.

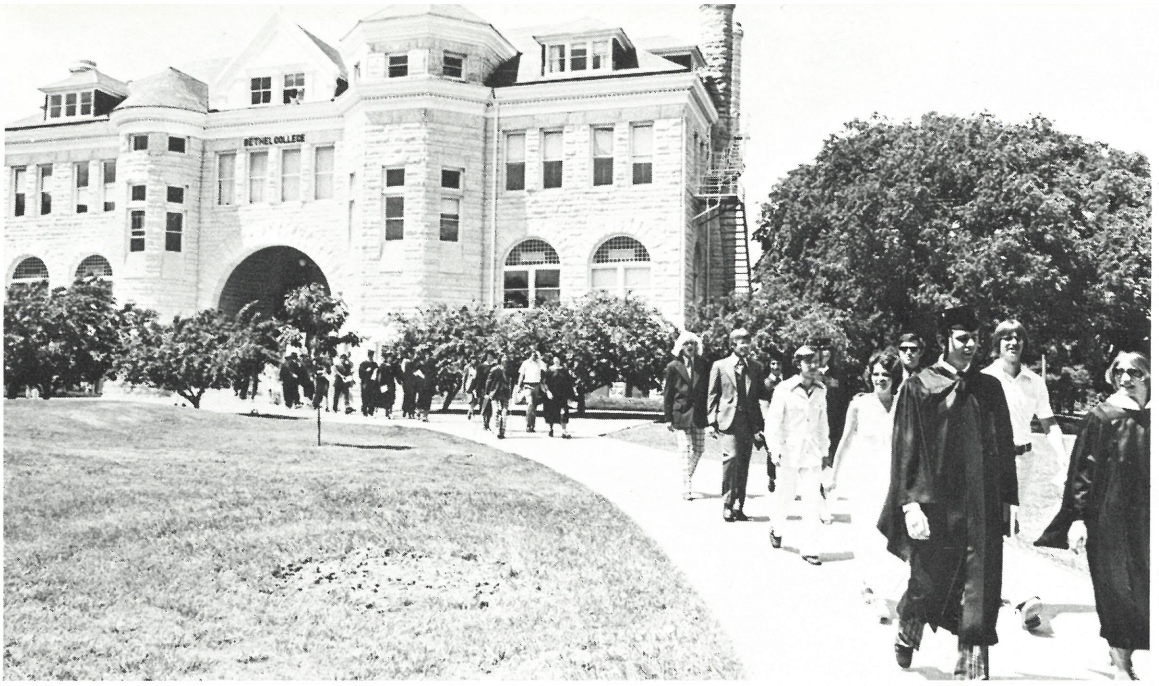
Man Gifts, One Spirit
by Patty Shelly

There are many gifts, but the same Spirit;
There are many works, but the same God.
And the Spirit gives each as it chooses;
Praise the Lord, Praise God!

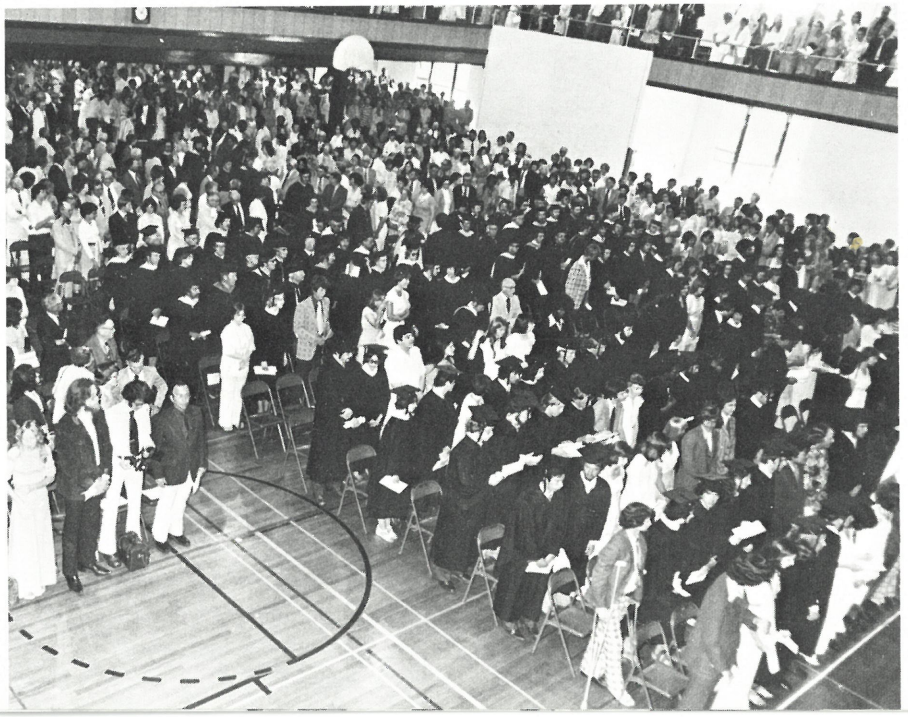
Now one has the gift of wisdom,
Another the calling to speak,
One the ability to comfort,
Another the calling to teach.

A body has many members,
Yet all work in unity.
The Church is the body of Christ--
His arms, ears and eyes, hands and feet.

Not all are called to be prophets;
And not all are called to preach.
But all should aim for the best gifts:
And love is the greatest of these.



Warren Friesen, Amy Rinner, Don Kehrberg, Lenny Voth, Phil Duerksen, Doug Voran, and Vicki Krehbiel, part of the Bethel College Chamber Orchestra, begin Commencement with "Aria from Water Music" by Handel.



Supplement Credits

Photography
Mike Hinz--Die Fledermaus, Commencement
Chuck Buller--Sports
Paul Unruh--Baccalaureate
Plus miscellaneous contributions from six others.

Writing
Wynn Goering--Track
David Shelly--Tennis
Amy Rinner--Die Fledermaus
Linda Shelly--Graduation

Overall Coordination--Linda Shelly with experiential learning help from 1977 THRESHER editor Jan Niles.

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